



ISPP FAQ's (Information System for Parents & Providers)

The **Information System for Parents & Providers (ISPP)** being developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) places new obligations on local authorities for exchange of information from your service directories and childcare databases with the national ISPP aggregator.

The frequently asked questions below (FAQ's) provide you with details of Open Objects' solution to this new requirement.



What new requirements does ISPP create?

By September 2009, all local authorities need to be able to manage two types of data exchange with ISPP. These are the ECD (Extended Childcare Directory) and FSD (Family Service Directory) exchanges.

In addition, some local authorities who are users of the iChIS database will need to replace it with a new Early Years system.

What is Open Objects take on it?

ISPP is the beginning of a revolution in the way that Family Information is shared at local, regional and national level. ISPP has significantly grown the role and importance of online Service Directories in meeting the Information Duty. In order to fully embrace the benefits of the two-way information flow that ISPP will deliver, local authorities will need a very flexible system for **both receiving and sending information**. We believe that the best place to manage this will be via a dedicated ISPP data bridge.

What is Open Objects' ISPP Data Bridge?

The ISPP Data Bridge is a complete solution for data exchange with the ISPP aggregator. It provides an online service that can;

- Assemble information sets ready for ISPP by harvesting from internal sources (including Early Years)
- Push information onto the national ISPP service (both ECD and FSD)
- Pull information from the national ISPP service, including the national services directory and information from neighbouring authorities
- Quarantine inbound information from any ISPP source for you to check and approve before onwards use

How can we use the ISPP Data Bridge?

The ISPP Data Bridge is supplied as part of the Open Objects' Family and Community Hub. The Hub is a system which enables service directories of all types to be delivered from a single shared platform. If you are an existing customer of Open Objects' Hub then your service will be upgraded to include the ISPP Data Bridge for free. If you do not currently use the Open Objects' Hub for your service directory, then we will be happy to discuss a new implementation or replacement of your current service directory.



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Does it matter which Early Years system I use?

No. So long as you can export data from your Early Years system in a structured format (e.g. XML, CSV etc). The Open Objects' Hub can automatically pick-up the data and transform it to an ISPP structured data package ready for upload onto the national aggregator.

Why wouldn't I just send the ECD information direct to ISPP from my Early Years system?

So long as your Early Years system supports it, there is no reason why you shouldn't fulfil the Extended Childcare Directory (ECD) information exchange in this way. However that's only half of the picture. You will still need to do the Family Service Directory (FSD) exchanges. The Open Objects' Hub is the one place where the information for ECD and FSD exist together (because they are both needed for your public service directories). So the Hub offers a convenient single point from which to manage, check, approve and record all of your ISPP interactions.

What about the iChIS replacement?

If you do need to replace iChIS we recommend though that you procure your replacement separately to your Service Directory solution. Some local authorities are trying to procure these two from a single system, but we believe this is a mistake. There are plenty of good Early Years systems to choose from (such as Capita, Tribal), but very few good Service Directories systems (traditionally a lot of these have been written in-house or as just an add-on to a back-office database system). Whichever Early Years system you currently use or you are procuring now, Open Objects' Family and Community Hub and ISPP Data Bridge will be compatible. By picking Open Objects for your Service Directory Hub, you can be assured that you will have the flexibility to meet future demands for online services and to meet both the letter and the spirit of the new ISPP requirement in full.

When can we use the ISPP Data Bridge?

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has laid down a timetable for the roll out of ISPP which culminates in 'go live' in September 2009. As part of the programme, suppliers will be undergoing accreditation testing in Q1 2009 (January-March). Thereafter, in Q2 2009 (April-May) Open Objects will be working with customers and DCSF to obtain individual accreditations for the FSD and ECD upload and download processes. This will mean that all customers are ready in plenty of time for the national launch in September 2009.

Where can I get more information?

For a demonstration of the ISPP Data Bridge and the Family and Community Hub please contact Open Objects (01223 422200) or visit our website.

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